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NEGATIVE
BURN
LEN STRAZEWSKI • PHILLIP HESTER • BRIAN BOLLAND • CHRIS SPROUSE • DOUG WHEELER • WADE von GRAWBADGER

NEGATIVE BURN

A Mad Hatter Studios
International Product

Joe Pruett ~ Editor

VOLUME ONE
NUMBER TWENTY-THREE

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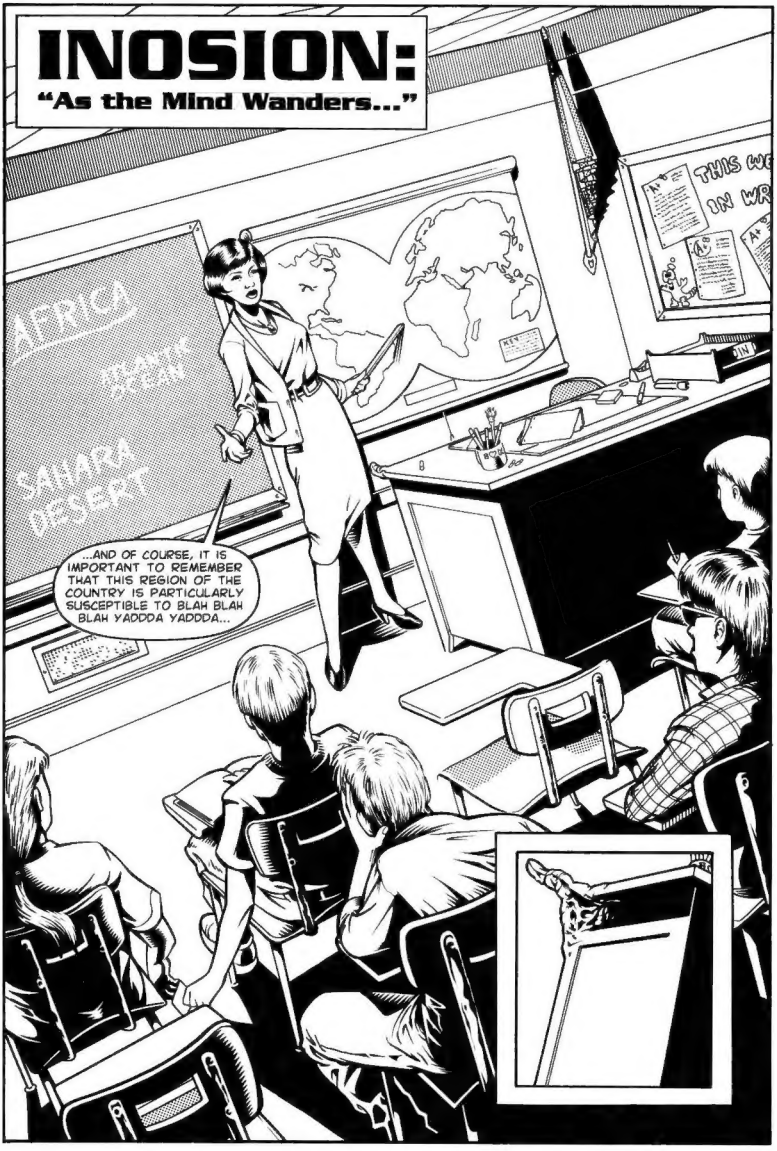
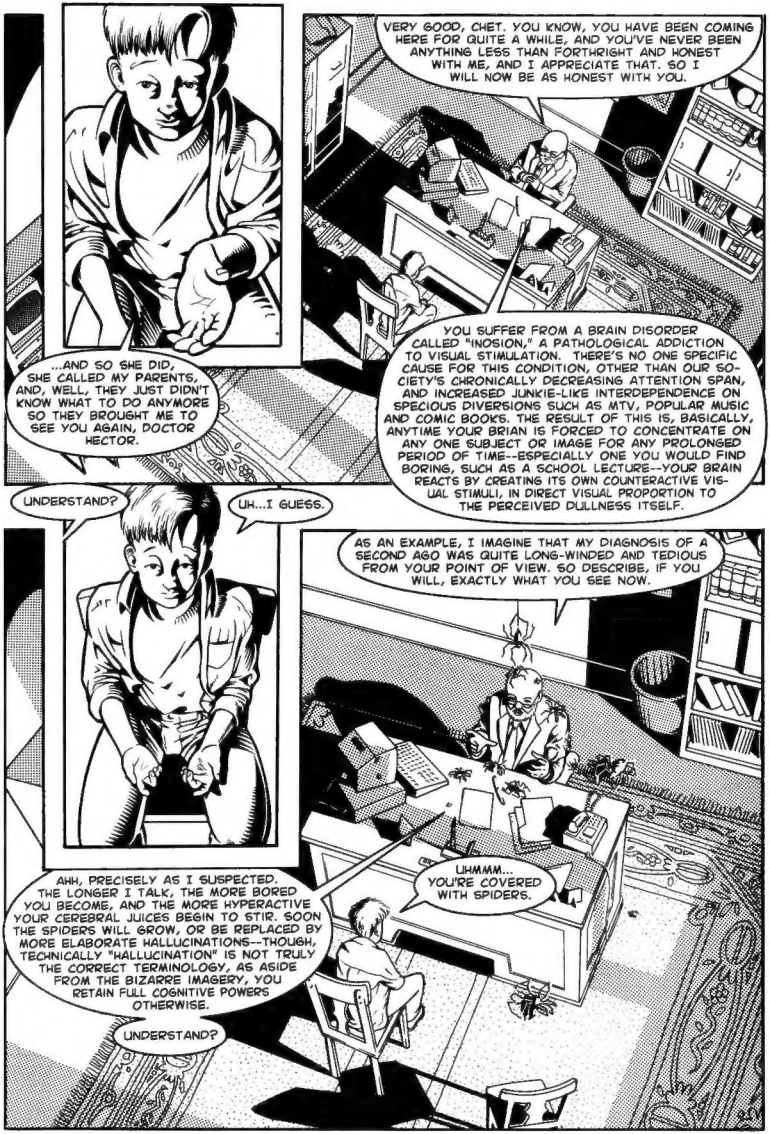
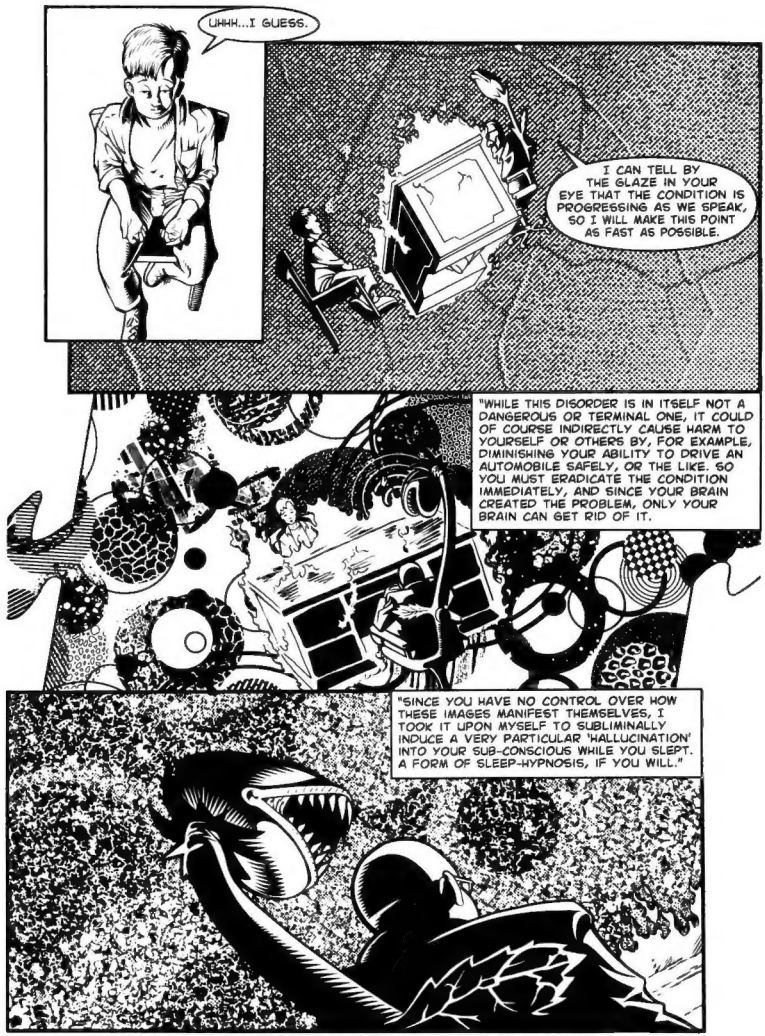

INOSION:
"As the Mind Wanders..."
AFRICA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
SAHARA DESERT
...AND OF COURSE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THIS REGION OF THE COUNTRY IS PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO BLAH BLAH BLAH YADDDA YADDDA...

WHAT THE...?
GHHH!
GASSHH! and that's me!
OHHH MY GAAAA...HELP ME! OH PLEAASE!
OH IT HURTS! IT HURTS! IT HURTS...
...OH, IT HURTS TO SEE SUCH AN INTELLIGENT STUDENT REFUSE TO TAKE HIS EDUCATION SERIOUSLY! I SWEAR, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU EXCEPT CALL YOUR PARENTS AGAIN!


...AND SO SHE DID. SHE CALLED MY PARENTS, AND, WELL, THEY JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE SO THEY BROUGHT ME TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DOCTOR HECTOR.
VERY GOOD, CHET. YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE BEEN COMING HERE FOR QUITE A WHILE, AND YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LESS THAN FORTHRIGHT AND HONEST WITH ME, AND I APPRECIATE THAT. SO I WILL NOW BE AS HONEST WITH YOU.
YOU SUFFER FROM A BRAIN DISORDER CALLED "INOSION," A PATHOLOGICAL ADDICTION TO VISUAL STIMULATION. THERE'S NO ONE SPECIFIC CAUSE FOR THIS CONDITION, OTHER THAN OUR SOCIETY'S CHRONICALLY DECREASING ATTENTION SPAN, AND INCREASED JUNKIE-LIKE INTERDEPENDENCE ON SPECIOUS DIVERSIONS SUCH AS MTV, POPULAR MUSIC AND COMIC BOOKS. THE RESULT OF THIS IS, BASICALLY, ANYTIME YOUR BRIAN IS FORCED TO CONCENTRATE ON ANY ONE SUBJECT OR IMAGE FOR ANY PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME--ESPECIALLY ONE YOU WOULD FIND BORING, SUCH AS A SCHOOL LECTURE--YOUR BRAIN REACTS BY CREATING ITS OWN COUNTERACTIVE VISUAL STIMULI, IN DIRECT VISUAL PROPORTION TO THE PERCEIVED DULLNESS ITSELF.
UNDERSTAND?
UH...I GUESS.
AS AN EXAMPLE, I IMAGINE THAT MY DIAGNOSIS OF A SECOND AGO WAS QUITE LONG-WINDED AND TEDIOUS FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW. SO DESCRIBE, IF YOU WILL, EXACTLY WHAT YOU SEE NOW.
UHMMM... YOU'RE COVERED WITH SPIDERS.
AHH, PRECISELY AS I SUSPECTED. THE LONGER I TALK, THE MORE BORED YOU BECOME, AND THE MORE HYPERACTIVE YOUR CEREBRAL JUICES BEGIN TO STIR. SOON THE SPIDERS WILL GROW, OR BE REPLACED BY MORE ELABORATE HALLUCINATIONS--THOUGH, TECHNICALLY "HALLUCINATION" IS NOT TRULY THE CORRECT TERMINOLOGY, AS ASIDE FROM THE BIZARRE IMAGERY, YOU RETAIN FULL COGNITIVE POWERS OTHERWISE.
UNDERSTAND?


UHHH...I GUESS.
I CAN TELL BY THE GLAZE IN YOUR EYE THAT THE CONDITION IS PROGRESSING AS WE SPEAK, SO I WILL MAKE THIS POINT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
"WHILE THIS DISORDER IS IN ITSELF NOT A DANGEROUS OR TERMINAL ONE, IT COULD OF COURSE INDIRECTLY CAUSE HARM TO YOURSELF OR OTHERS BY, FOR EXAMPLE, DIMINISHING YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE AN AUTOMOBILE SAFELY, OR THE LIKE. SO YOU MUST ERADICATE THE CONDITION IMMEDIATELY, AND SINCE YOUR BRAIN CREATED THE PROBLEM, ONLY YOUR BRAIN CAN GET RID OF IT.
"SINCE YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER HOW THESE IMAGES MANIFEST THEMSELVES, I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO SUBLIMINALLY INDUCE A VERY PARTICULAR 'HALLUCINATION' INTO YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS WHILE YOU SLEPT. A FORM OF SLEEP-HYPNOSIS, IF YOU WILL."

UHHH...WHAT KIND OF HALLUCINATION?
YOU SHOULD BE FINDING OUT VERY SOON. RIGHT AT THE VERY MOMENT YOUR CURRENT HALLUCINATION APPEARS TO BECOME VIOLENT OR IN ANY WAY LIFE-THREATENING TO ME.
...WHICH, JUDGING BY YOUR CURRENT EXPRESSION, SHOULD BE RIGHT ABOUT...
...NOW.

WELL...IS HE GONE?
UHHH...YEAH! WHO WAS THAT?
I HAVE IMPLANTED A FICTIONAL SUPERHERO IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS WHO WILL APPEAR ANYTIME YOUR IMAGINATION BEGINS WORKING OVERTIME.
NOW, IT WILL BE A SLOW PROCESS, AT FIRST ESPECIALLY, BUT I WILL MAKE PERIODIC CHECK-UPS ON YOUR PROGRESS. I'LL ALSO SLOWLY ATTEMPT TO RESUSCITATE YOUR DEPLETED ATTENTION SPAN BY EXPOSING YOU TO SUBSTANTIVE CLASSICAL MUSIC...
PSYCHO
..STRUCTURED FILMS OF A DOCUMENTARY NATURE...
...AND BOOKS WITH WORDS AND NO PICTURES WHATSOEVER.

UHHHHHHHMMM...
...OKAY.
AND SO THEN, YOU SEE, IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOU BLAH BLAH BLAH YADDDA YADDDA YAYAYA...

MR. MAMOULIAN

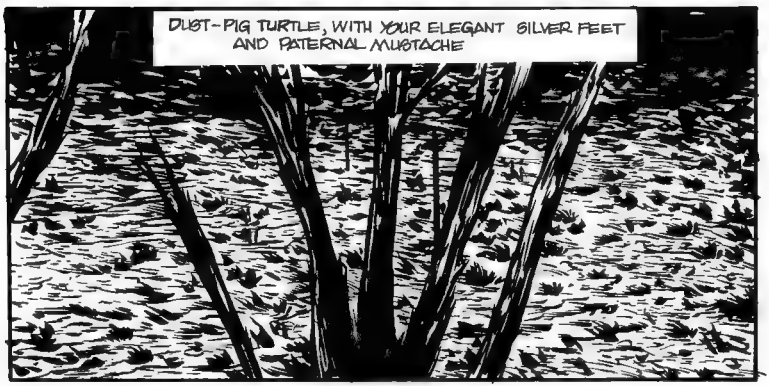
FROG EATING BAT

R. DILLAND 4.1 87

WHAT I HAVE HERE IS A PICTURE OF A FROG EATING BAT.
THE THING IS, YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S A PICTURE OF A FROG EATING A BAT OR A BAT THAT EATS FROGS.
NOW, SUPPOSE THAT THIS LITTLE CREATURE IS THE ANSWER TO THE BIG QUESTION, BUT THE IDENTITY OF THE CREATURE CAN NEVER BE DISCOVERED, BECAUSE THE PHOTOGRAPH IS... IN MY POCKET.
THE WHOLE OF MANKIND CLAMOURS TO KNOW THE ANSWER. THEY DON'T LIKE BIG QUESTIONS HANGING OVER THEM. THEY NEED TO BE FREE FROM DOUBT.
UP POPS A MAN WITH WHITE HAIR AND A LONG WHITE ROBE, WHO SAYS: "I HAVE SEEN THE PHOTO, AND IT'S A FROG EATING A BAT!" AND THE PEOPLE BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF.
AND ALONG COMES ANOTHER MAN IN A SAFFRON ROBE, HIS LEGS FOLDED BENEATH HIM, WHO SAYS: "I'VE SEEN THE PHOTO, AND IT'S A BAT EATING A FROG!" "PHWEW!" GO THE PEOPLE.
THE PEOPLE ARE HAPPY. THEY ARE FREE FROM DOUBT. AND THEIR CERTAINTY IS STRENGTHENED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OTHER FOOLS HAVE GOT IT ALL WRONG AND INTEND TO SOW THE SEEDS OF DOUBT. THOSE FOOLS ARE TO BE FEARED AND HATED. FEAR AND HATRED MAKE PEOPLE STRONG!
THE MEN IN THEIR WHITE AND SAFFRON ROBES KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE'S NEED TO BE DELIVERED FROM DOUBT IS GREATER THAN THEIR NEED FOR THE TRUTH. THEY LIED. THEY NEVER SAW THE PHOTO.
AND HOW DO I KNOW? BECAUSE IT WAS IN MY POCKET ALL ALONG!
NOW, EVEY. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS LITTLE CREATURE IS?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU ARE TRULY THE WISEST OF THE WISE!
C'MON. SHOW IT TO ME THEN!
NO!
GET YOUR HAND OUT OF MY POCKET!

armadillo

ARMADILLO,
LITTLE ARMADO,



NOT TO YOU WILL HAPPEN WHAT HAPPENS TO OTHER ARMED MEN.
YOUR DREAMS ARE NOT OF THINGS HIGHER THAN THE LIFE THAT IS YOURS NOW.
GLORY AND SACRIFICE CUT NO DUST WITH YOU
AND IF YOU ARE EATEN ALIVE
IT IS NOT BY DISGUST, NOT FROM WITHIN.

HERE, AFTER THE DAILY RAIN, THE GABI PLANT HOLDS OUT ITS GREAT LEAVES LIKE BAROQUE PLATTERS HEAPED WITH LIGHT, EACH A GREEN SIGH.

AT THE OTHER END OF THE ISLAND EVERYTHING SPEAKS OF DEATH
HELD ONLY AT ARM'S LENGTH:

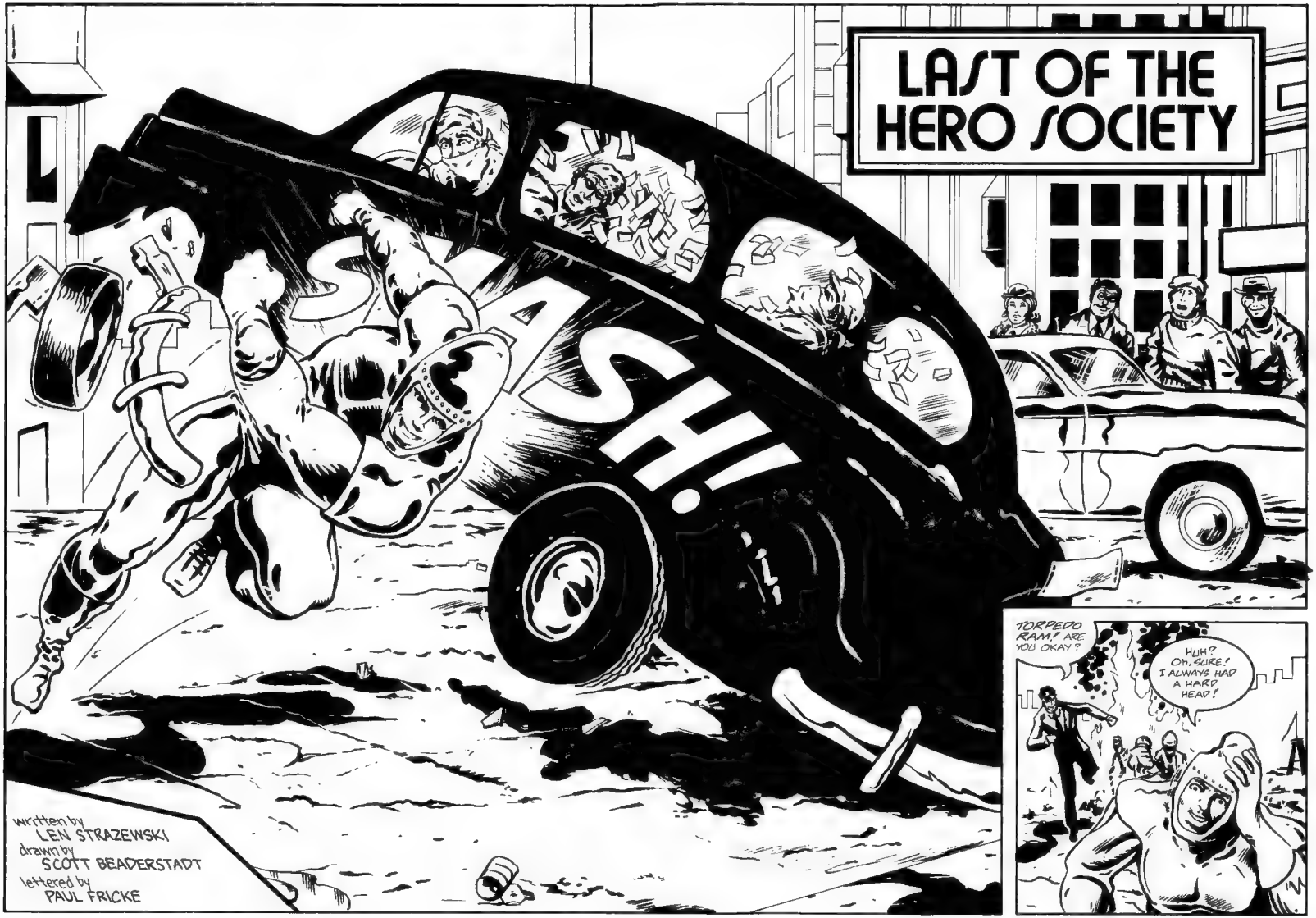
DRYNESS, RETRENCHMENT: VERY CLEAR UNDER THE BRITTLE SCRUB

THE TERSE SHARP LINES OF THE HILLS.

LATER, WE'LL SIT BETWEEN, REMOVED ON THE HOTEL'S HIGH TERRACE,
LOOKING AT THOSE SHARP PROFILES OVER THE WRINKLED BLUE OF THE BAY,

THAT SEEMS NOT TO MOVE,
ITS CHANGELESS WAVES.

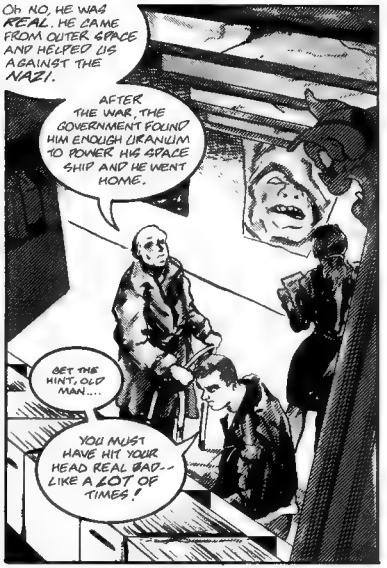
1945-- NOT LONG AFTER THE WAR. AMERICA RETURNS TO PEACETIME LIFE.
BDAM
BDAM
GET US OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY RING UP THE COPS!
NO PROBLEM. THIS BABY'S GOT MORE HORSES THAN HITLER'S STAFF CAR!
IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT.
HA-HA! WE MADE IT!
MONEY! I LOVE IT!
SMACK!
ONCE WE GET OUT OF TOWN AND ONTO THE BACK ROADS, WE'LL BE CLEAR TO MEXICO!
SNFABTCH!

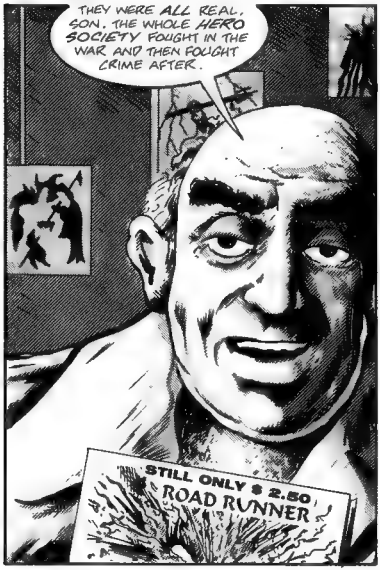

LAST OF THE HERO SOCIETY
SMASH!
written by LEN STRAZEWSKI
drawn by SCOTT BEADERSTADT
lettered by PAUL FRICKE
TORPEDO RAM! ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH? OH, SURE! I ALWAYS HAD A HARD HEAD!

1995.
RRROAR
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, OLD MAN? YOU CRAZY OR SOMETHING?
YOU ALMOST WALKED IN FRONT OF THE CAR, MAN!
Oh...oh, MY GOODNESS. I WAS DAY-DREAMING AND I DIDN'T SEE IT!
YEAH, WELL, DON'T DO THAT NO MORE, 'ROUND HERE, IF YOU SNOOZIN', YOU LOSIN'!
NOW WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY DON' YOU GO HOME OR SOMETHIN'?
Uh...THAT'S A GOOD IDEA...BUT SOMETIMES I... GET A LITTLE TURNED AROUND.
CAN'T FIND MY WAY BACK.
Oh, MAN, YOU A BIG PROBLEM. WHY DON' YOU WRITE YOUR ADDRESS DOWN SO YOU CAN GIVE IT TO THE COPS OR SOMETHIN' ... HELP YOU GET HOME?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, TOO... BUT IT USUALLY COMES BACK TO ME IF I WALK AROUND FOR A WHILE...SEE SOME FAMILIAR PLACES.
MIND IF I WALK ALONG WITH YOU?
WON'T BOTHER ME... S'LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP UP!
HUFF-HUFF!

YOU GET ALONG OKAY WITH THAT THING. MOVE PRETTY GOOD.
MY ARMS ARE STILL PRETTY STRONG. JUST MY KNEES THAT ARE SHOT.
THEY GIVE OUT IF I HAVE TO WALK ON MY OWN.
HOW COME YOU FORGET STUFF? YOU GOT THAT ALZHEIMER THING?
NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I GOT HIT IN THE HEAD A LOT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER... IN THE WAR AND AFTER.
STARTED TO GET DIZZY SPELLS AND MEMORY LAPSES 'BOUT TEN YEARS AGO.
DOCTORS SAID I HAD THE HARDEST HEAD THEY HAD EVER SEEN -- BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER. I HAD SO MANY CONCUSSIONS AS A KID. MY BRAIN SWELLS.
THAT HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER WHEN THE GANGS GOT HIM. HE WOULDN'T JOIN UP SO THEY BEAT HIM UP BAD.
VIDEOS VIDEOS VIDEOS
CONDOMS "R" US
LEATHER 'N SPANK
HOW'S HE DOING NOW?
DEAD. THEY SHOT HIM THE NEXT TIME.
KING OF COMICS
MA MOVED US OUT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. GOT DIFFERENT GANGS HERE.
I'M GOIN' IN HERE. YOU FIND YOUR WAY YET?
STAR WARRIOR!
Oh, MY OLD FRIEND... WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
STAR WARRIOR
HEY, I WAS TALKIN' TO YOU! ARE YOU OKAY?

I KNEW HIM IN THE WAR. HE NEVER LOOKED LIKE THAT.
HE WAS THE STRONGEST... KINDEST MAN I EVER KNEW.
C'MON, OLD MAN! HE'S JUST A COMIC BOOK THING--MADE UP BY SOMEBODY.


OH NO, HE WAS REAL. HE CAME FROM OUTER SPACE AND HELPED US AGAINST THE NAZI.
AFTER THE WAR, THE GOVERNMENT FOUND HIM ENOUGH URANIUM TO POWER HIS SPACE SHIP AND HE WENT HOME.
GET THE HINT, OLD MAN....
YOU MUST HAVE HIT YOUR HEAD REAL BAD--LIKE A LOT OF TIMES!


THEY WERE ALL REAL, SON. THE WHOLE HERO SOCIETY FOUGHT IN THE WAR AND THEN FOUGHT CRIME AFTER.
STILL ONLY $ 2.50
ROAD RUNNER

SKYBAT WAS A MASTER SPY AND THEN MOVED TO NEW YORK. ROAD RUNNER QUIT WHEN HE TORE AN ACHILLES TENDON.
SKY BAT
CONFORMAN JUST LEFT... MOVED TO THE MOUNTAINS IN SOUTH AMERICA.
CONDOR
YEAH, HOW COME I ONLY HEARD ABOUT 'EM IN COMICS?
ROAD KILL

IN THE 1950's THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED THEM ALL UNDERGROUND. IT WAS THE ERA OF THE COMMON MAN -- AND THEY DIDN'T WANT ANY SUPER-HEROES IN THE PICTURE.
$22.50.
SHIT. THEY WENT UP AGAIN.
$2.50 A PIECE? WHEN I WAS A BOY THEY WERE JUST A DIME!
AND IF I HAD A DIME FOR EVERY TIME SOME OLD GUY TOLD ME THAT, I COULD BUY TEN MORE COMICS!
I ONLY BUY THE ONES I COLLECT. CAN'T AFFORD TO TRY ANYTHING NEW.
HE'S BACK. AND HE'S RABID!!
HOT
HOT
WHAT ARE THE STORIES LIKE? DO THE HEROES CATCH THE BAD GUYS LIKE THEY USED TO?
DEPENDS WHAT YOU MEAN BY "BAD." USUALLY THEY'RE ON THE RUN FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR SOME GROUP OF MUTANTS.
WHAT ABOUT SPIES OR BANK ROBBERS?
WHO'D READ THAT CRAP? WHAT'S COOL 'BOUT CATCHIN' BANK ROBBERS?
MAGIC ARCADE

YOU GOT ANY QUARTERS?
A COUPLE.
GOOD. I'LL SHOW YOU A FEW THINGS ON DEATH BY COMBAT.
ALLEY FIGHTER
PRIME
I ALWAYS PLAY SLASHSTRIKER. I GOT HIS STINGER SPECIAL MOVE DOWN COLD!
YOU WANT TO TRY IT?
TURBO'S
DEATH BY COMBAT!
POW!
KRAK
ARRHP!
OH MY.
OH YES.
JUST USE THE CONTROL STICK TO MOVE THE STEELSHIELD BACK AND FORTH AND THE BUTTONS TO TRY TO PUNCH ME.
GOT IT.
HEY! YOU'VE PLAYED THIS THING BEFORE? YOU WERE HOLDING OUT ON ME?
POW!
KRAK
POW!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? AND HOW THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IT?!
I THINK I GOT YA NOW, SON!

Oh, MAN! YOU RIPPED MY SPINE-!?
YEEEEEEAAARH!
Oh... MY.!
HEY! WHERE YOU GOIN'? WE GET EXTRA TIME FOR THAT MOVE!
Oh NO. Oh NO....
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU OKAY?
THAT GAME... I DIDN'T THINK I COULD DO THAT TO YOU.
IT WASN'T ME, MAN. IT WAS JUST A GAME.
I KNOW ...BUT...
...WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?
HELP!
SHIT! IT'S A SNATCHING! GET OUT OF HIS WAY, MAN!
A THIEF. SOME DIRTY LITTLE THIEF!

C'MON! WE GOTTA GET OUT OF THE WAY!

WHOMP

OLD MAN, YOU OKAY? YOU KNOCKED OUT THE SNATCHER, MAN. HE RAN RIGHT INTO YOU.
I DID? I DID!

ALWAYS DID HAVE A HARD HEAD.

HEY, IT'S ALL STARTING TO COME BACK TO ME....
THE END

CLASSICS DESECRATED™

"The ANTS and the GRASSHOPPER"

original story by AESOP defiled by DOUG WHEELER & JIM REDDINGTON lettered by MIKE DeLEPINE

ONCE UPON A SUMMER, THERE WAS A LAZY AND CAREFREE GRASSHOPPER WHO LIKED TO PLAY AND PARTY NIGHT AND DAY, NEVER DOING A SINGLE BIT OF LABOR
WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB?
WHEN WINTER COMES, YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF FREEZING AND STARVING TO DEATH--
--WHILE WE'LL BE WELL OFF IN OUR HOMES WITH THE FOOD WE'RE STORING AWAY!
THE GRASSHOPPER, HOWEVER, PAID THEM NO HEED, AND PARTIED ON.
FEH!
...UNTIL AT LAST WINTER ARRIVED, AND THE GRASSHOPPER FOUND HIS SITUATION TO BE JUST AS THE ANTS HAD PREDICTED
GO AWAY! WE TOLD YOU TO GET A JOB LAST SUMMER!
THE GRASSHOPPER, HAVING LEARNED HIS LESSON, WENT OUT AND GOT A "JOB" SUITABLE TO HIS LIFESTYLE--
--BECOMING A GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRAT AND THUS RECEIVING BOTH THE ANTS' FOOD AND HOUSING VIA TAXATION
MORAL: "TO EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR TALENTS."

©1995 WHEELER & REDDINGTON

THE CREEP
in
EXORCISM 101
MY SISTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TWIST.
SHE WAS CONSTANTLY DECKED OUT IN HER GOTHIC BARBIE PLAYSET GEAR, SILENTLY BOBBING HER HEAD TO SOME INDUSTRIAL BACKBEAT ON HER WALKMAN.
SO NO ONE THOUGHT IT WAS ODD WHEN SHE SHOWED UP AT SCHOOL ONE DAY LOOKING EVEN MORE PORCELAIN THAN USUAL.
EX
SHE SWOONED FROM CLASS TO CLASS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER DAY.
UNTIL SHE TRIED TO RIDE Mr MERTZ LIKE A HORSE IN HOMEROOM.
AND LATER, HER VACANT STARE BURNED THROUGH CHEERLEADERS' SWEATERS, RIGHT THROUGH TO THE BRA, SPILLING CLUMPS OF TISSUE ON THE STUDY HALL FLOOR.
IN FACT, IT WASN'T UNTIL SHE SUMMONED FOUNTAINS OF BLOOD FROM THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE TOILETS THAT SHE WAS SENT TO SEE THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR.
ONE

HI, LIZ. I'M THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MR CASPER.
BUT I WANT YOU TO CALL ME LARRY, OKAY?
I'M OK. YOU'RE OK
FRANKLY, LIZ, I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE TODAY. AS FAR AS I KNOW, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN ANY KIND OF TROUBLE ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.
I'M OK. YOU'RE OK
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MAKES YOUR BEHAVIOR TODAY SO TROUBLING. SOME OF YOUR TEACHERS AND CLASSMATES ARE MORE THAN A LITTLE WORRIED, AND I HAVE TO AGREE.
I'M OK. YOU'RE OK
LIZ, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?
I'M OK. YOU'RE OK
I DON'T KNOW.
I, UH...
I'M POSSESSED, I GUESS.
OH, OH, MY.
YOU'RE SERIOUS
LIZ, YOU ARE AT A VERY SENSITIVE AND SPECIAL AGE. YOUR BODY'S GOING THROUGH A LOT OF CHANGES THAT ARE EASILY MISUNDERSTOO-
I'M OK. YOU'RE OK
WHORLF!
CAN SOMEONE PICK YOU UP RIGHT AWAY?

THAT'S WHERE I COME IN. MOM WAS ON SOME BUSINESS TRIP TO SIOUX CITY; AND EVEN THOUGH LIZ WAS OLDER THAN ME, SHE WAS STILL MY RESPONSIBILITY.
BEING POSSESSED AND ALL.
I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT RELIGION MY FAMILY IS, SO I CALLED EVERY CHURCH IN TOWN.
I BROUGHT HOME THE ONLY CLERGY-LIKE GUYS WHO DIDN'T HANG UP ON ME RIGHT AWAY WHEN I TOLD THEM ABOUT LIZ.
REVEREND BARNES, THE BACHELOR METHODIST MINISTER
AND GILBY GOTT, A CATHOLIC ALTAR BOY I KNOW FROM 4-H.
SHE'S UPSTAIRS, I GUESS.
CAN WE GET THIS OVER WITH BEFORE MY MOM GETS HOME?
SHE FREAKS WHEN I HAVE PEOPLE OVER.
Y' KNOW, ERIC, I BET YOUR SISTER'S JUST EPILEPTIC OR SOMETHING.
I PRETTY MUCH HEARD ABOUT EVERYTHING SHE DID THAT DAY AT SCHOOL, SO I WAS PREPARED FOR THE WORST...
HEY, SIS. WHAT'S-...

AT LEAST I THOUGHT I WAS.
...UP?
THAT GIRL.
SHE'S FLOATING.
JEEZ, ERIC, I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR SISTER WAS SO HOT!
YOUNG MAN! THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME FOR SUCH THOUGHTS!
DO ALL CATHOLIC BOYS BEHAVE LIKE THAT?
AS FAR AS I KNOW, YES.
SIS?
HMMMMM
SOMETHING SMELLS DELICIOUS.

THREE LITTLE MORSELS.
UH, I'M NOT QUITE PREPARED FOR...
OH, GOD. WHAT DO WE DO?
CRACK THAT BIBLE AND START PRAYING, MISTER!
OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL-
BE PARTLY CLOUDY. WITH HIGHS IN THE FIFTIES. LITTLE CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE
THREE BLIND MICE.
I CAN WHIP ANY SON OF A BITCH IN THIS HOUSE AT DOMINOES, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S FUNNY YOU LAUGHING!
ERIC, THIS GUY'S GONE.
CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE. INTENTIONAL MISUSE BY CONCENTRATING AND INHALING CONTENTS CAN BE HARMFUL OR FATAL.
ALL THEIR SKIN IS SCREAMING AT ME, "HARLOT! HARLOT!" NOW, I ASK YOU, IS THAT GOOD?
LIFT AND SEPARATE! LIFT AND SEPARATE!
GAAHH! ANNE RICE!
CARVING KNIFE!

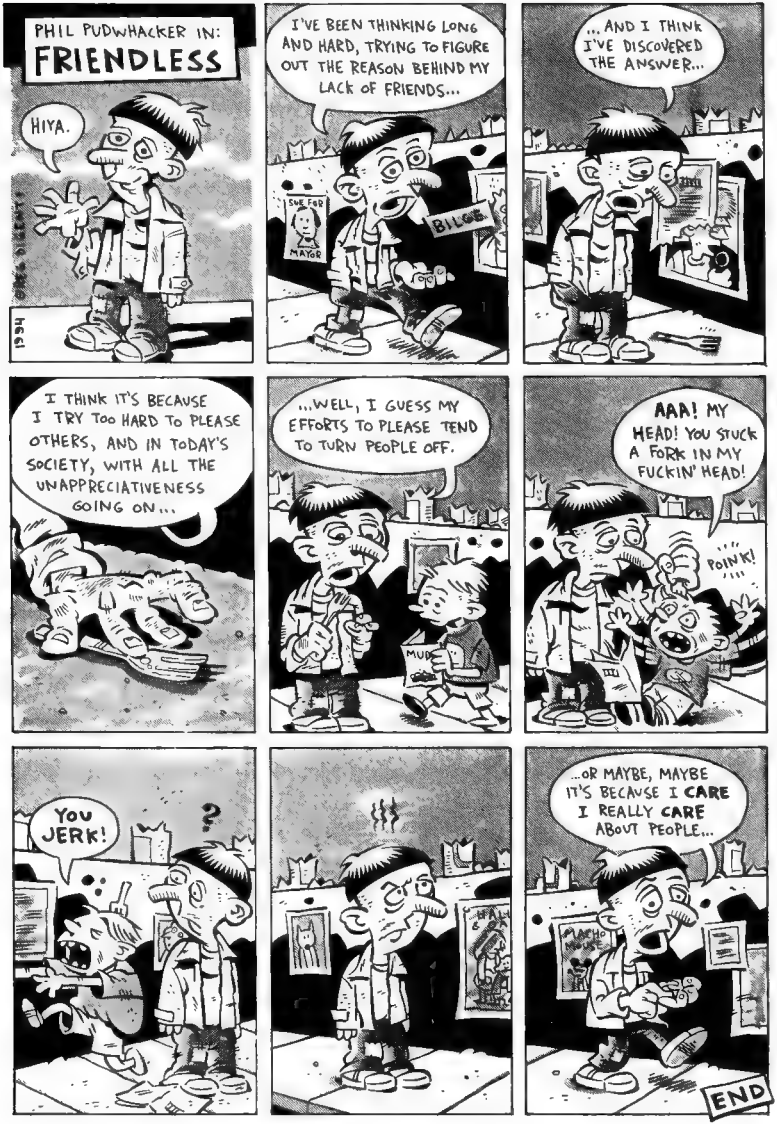
STOP! STOP IT!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY! LEAVE MY SISTER ALONE!
SUCH CONCERN. I THOUGHT ALL LITTLE BROTHERS HATED THEIR BIG SISTERS.
NO!
NOT REALLY. THAT'S JUST TALK I WANT HER BACK RIGHT NOW!
OH, MY. YOU MUST ACTUALLY LOVE HER
YEAH... I GUESS.
WELL, THEN..
KISS ME.
GUHHH!
OH, LORD. ANOTHER ONE!
WHHRRUM

IT WAS THE CREEP.
WOOSH
GET BEHIND ME, SATAN!
NO! WAIT! HE'S A GOOD GUY
...I THINK.
THE CREEP WAS LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE IN GLASS CITY, A SECOND HAND MYTH.
JUST PHONY ENOUGH TO IGNORE, BUT ALMOST REAL ENOUGH TO BELIEVE IN.
ONLY ONE THING WAS CERTAIN ABOUT HIM.
HE SHOWED UP WHEN THINGS WERE WEIRD...
FTWASH!
AND WHEN HE DID...
FFFFSSSSSSSSSSS
THEY GOT WEIRDER.

RRRRNNCH
LUSH
WHOP!
HEY!
WHAP!
KRAK
THOP
POP!

OKAY!
OKAY, ALREADY!
HOLD IT!
JEEZUS!
WOOOOSH
GOTTA GO!

WICKED!
WWHRRUUWWM
CAREFUL, BOY! SHE MAY STILL BE POSSESSED!
GET BENT!
OOOVUUHHH
ERIC?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STAY THE HELL OUT OF MY ROOM!
I GUESS I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THAT DAY, BUT YOU COULD SAY IT HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON ALL OF US.
LIZ PIERCED HER BELLYBUTTON AND GRADUATED A SEMESTER EARLY.
REVEREND BARNES LEFT THE MINISTRY TO HOST A LOCAL RADIO GARDENING SHOW.
GILBY GOT TO SEE MY SISTER IN HER UNDERWEAR.
THE CREEP, WELL... WHO KNOWS WHAT HE GOT OUT OF IT.
BUT I GOT MY SISTER BACK
THE CREEP WAS: CREATED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY PHILLIP HESTER
INKED BY ANDE PARKS
LETTERED BY GARY PETERSON
EDITED BY JOE PRUETT


PHIL PUDWHACKER IN:
FRIENDLESS
HIYA.
1994
I'VE BEEN THINKING LONG AND HARD, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE REASON BEHIND MY LACK OF FRIENDS...
SUE FOR MAYOR
BILGE
...AND I THINK I'VE DISCOVERED THE ANSWER...
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE I TRY TOO HARD TO PLEASE OTHERS, AND IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, WITH ALL THE UNAPPRECIATIVENESS GOING ON...
...WELL, I GUESS MY EFFORTS TO PLEASE TEND TO TURN PEOPLE OFF.
MUD
AAA! MY HEAD! YOU STUCK A FORK IN MY FUCKIN' HEAD!
POINK!
YOU JERK!
?
...OR MAYBE, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I CARE I REALLY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE...
MACHO MOUSE
END

BENEATH THE CAREFULLY RESERVED AND POLITE NATURE BOY EXTERIOR OF BRIAN LURKS A TANGLED, REPRESSED BATCH OF URGES AND DASTARDLY THOUGHTS.
OCCASIONALLY THESE VENOMOUS INDULGENCES ESCAPE TO EXACT ABSURD RECRIMINATIONS.
the Fiend
BEWARE READER! BENEATH THE ID LIES...
CALL ME DEVIL-MAY-CARE, CHUMPS.
BUT DON'T CALL ME LACKA-DAISICAL! I'M NOBODY'S WHIPPIN' BOY.
MAYHEM AN' MISCHIEF IN THE OLE JEKYLL AN' HYDE TRADITION.
GRUNGE GOUGING
I HAD GONE TO THE LOCAL RECORD SHOP LOOKING FOR THE NEW MIDNIGHT OIL TAPE.
THE SHODDILY SHELVED TAPE SECTION TAUNTED AND OVERWHELMED MY HOPES I HAD OF FINDING MY TAPE.
SALE
MEGA GRUNGE
GRUNGE OUT DA WAHZOO
I'M A LITTLE BIT GRUNGE
ROGER CLINTON
5.99
IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT THE DROLL STORE CLERK APPROACHED ME.
HEY THERE, DUDE! CAN I HELP YA FIND ANY-THING
M-MIDNIGHT OIL'S LATEST...?
HMMM— DON'T SEE IT OUT HERE. LET ME CHECK IN THE BACK.

SHORTLY...
SORRY, DUDE. WE ONLY GOT 2 TAPES IN AND THEY'RE SOLD OUT. WOULD YOU LIKE TA TRY SOME NIRVANA? PEARL JAM? GRUNGE IS WAY BIG NOW, YA KNOW.
NO, THAT'S OKAY. I'LL JUST TRY AGAIN— GAK!!
Ka-TONG
WAHOO! IT'S PLAY-TIME! WHO WANTS A KIDNEY PUNCH?
WHOA, IT'S SOME SORTA SCRAGGLY LITTLE NIGHTMARE. HE POPPED OUTTA THAT NEEBS HEAD.
AH-HA! VICTIM #1, THE SUPER-FICIAL GRUNGE GOBER! PREPARE TO EAT MALLET!
YOU, SIR, HAVE ME DISTURBED AN PERTURBED WITH YOUR FATALISTIC FASHION SENSE!
BLACK! BLACK! BLACK! LIFE'S NOT AN ALL DAY FUNERAL! TRY ADDING A LITTLE COLOR TO YOUR LIFE! HOW ABOUT SOME BRUISY BLUE!? IT'LL REALLY SET OFF YOUR EYES!
Bash
AND WHY THE SUN-GLASSES!? YOU'RE INDOORS! IN A MALL FER PETE'S SAKE!
POT
WHAT IS IT THAT DRIVES YOU TO SUCH RIDICULOUS HEIGHTS OF POM-POUS, JINGOISTIC COOLNESS! WIDDLE BOY WEBELLING AGAINST HIS DADDY WADDY?
PLEASE—
I LOVE BEING A SUBCONSCIOUS APPARITION OF AGGRAVATION.
THE PERKS ARE TO DIE FOR! IMAGINE THE DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE OF YOUR CHOICE POPPING OUT OF THIN AIR AS NEEDED!!
SOME-BODY PINCH ME!
SHK!
TWAK!
SHOMP!
FOJONG!
CHZA-CHZA!
SWORT!
ZOP!

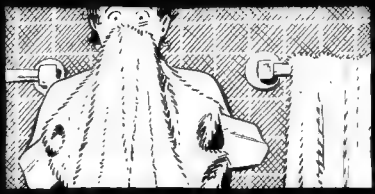
IT'S 29° OUTSIDE, AND YOU DARE PRANCE AROUND WITH KNEES AL DENTE!
SAY SAYONARA SHINNIES!
WAIT! H-HOLD ON!
Pa-CHAK!
HEY-YOOAAAAGHK
AND WHAT'S WITH FLANNEL? SUDDENLY IT'S NOUVEAU TRENDY! HOMELESSLY HIP! SHEESH! IT'S ALMOST AS FRIGHTENING AS THE IDEA THAT BELL BOTTOMS'LL REAR THEIR FLARED UGLY HEADS AGAIN! BAD ENOUGH I HAD TO SIT THRU THAT PATHETIC PAISLEY EXPLOSION BROUGHT ABOUT BY THOSE 80'S POWER TIE YUPPIES!
COOL YER JETS, MAN!
ARRGH! CEASE THE MONDO-HIP QUIS, YOU M-TV BLITZED AND BAMBOOZLED LEMMING! IT SADDENS ME TO SEE THE YOUTH OF TODAY SHAMELESSLY SLOBBERING OVER PRE-PROGRAMMED MEDIA HYPE!
B-BUT...
YOUR WHOLE EXISTENCE BUYS INTO THE NOTION THAT YOU'RE EXPRESSING A UNIQUE LOOK. WAKE UP AND SMELL THE CRASSNESS OF IT ALL. MY GOD, MAN, YOU'VE BECOME A COMMERCIALLY APPROVED ANARCHIST!
GRUNGE IS A STATE OF...
HOW CAN IT BE A STATE OF MIND IF YOU CAN BUY IT AT THE GAP!
AND ANOTHER THING— WAIT! NO! I'M NOT DONE WITH—
...TRY AGAIN NEXT WEEK. I'D BETTER GO NOW. I WANNA GET TO THE DMV BEFORE THEY CLOSE.
I SURE HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY LINES.
MAYBE IT'S TIME TA TRY G'UNTRY! THE GARTH BROOKS LOOK MIGHT BE NICE. YEHAA.
The END.

smoke story

©1982 PAUL FRICKE

NO CIGARETTE HAS EVER TOUCHED THESE LIPS.

PLENTY OF SMOKE HAS BEEN INHALED, THOUGH; I'M SURE: LIVING WITH SMOKERS; AT PARTIES; ETC. SOME THINK WHEN I COUGH IT'S FOR EFFECT. BUT I'M TELLIN' YA, IT CAN REALLY GET TO ME!



YEARS AGO, WHEN I LIVED WITH MY FAMILY, WE HAD THREE SMOKERS, AND THE TOWELS STUNK OF TOBACCO. NOTHING BETTER TO GIVE YOU THAT FRESH FEELING AFTER A SHOWER!

AND AFTER SPENDING A NIGHT OUT WITH SMOKERS, MY CLOTHES REEK OF A MOST UNPLEASANT ODOR!

WHEN SMOKERS VISIT MY HOUSE, THEY HAVE TO WAIT OR SMOKE OUTSIDE. NO ASHTRAYS ALLOWED!

EVEN FAMILY MEMBERS MUST GO OUT, NO MATTER THE WEATHER. IT'S THEIR CHOICE, THOUGH.

PARTIES AT MY PAD CAN BE A DRAG IF YOU SMOKE.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST SMOKERS THEMSELVES -- IT'S JUST THAT STENCH! AT LAST, AT LEAST I CAN ENJOY A RELATIVELY ODOR-FREE ENVIRONMENT IN MY OWN PLACE.

AND GEEZ, DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ABOUT POT SMOKE -- IT MAKES ME PHYSICALLY ILL!

eco

CALIBER COMICS

CHECKLIST

MAY / JUNE 1995

A.K.A. GOLDFISH: Queen

In Queen, the focus is on the female lead, Lauren B'Call. She was once Goldfish's greatest love and partner in crime, but now they are bitter adversaries. What connects her to Goldfish after all this time? From creator Brian Micheal Bendis. $2.95

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Included in this issue Russ Cooper and Wade von Grawbadger's cover feature of Incision, Brian Bolland's Mr. Mamoulian, Phillip Hester's The Creep and Matthew Smith's You Can Never Go Back, plus more. $2.95

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Scarecrow, Lion, Tin Man, Kevin, Peter, and Max fight off the fury of the Nome Hordes, while the Oz Freedom fighters set out to free Ozma, the true ruler of Oz. $2.95

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1-800-346-8940

for order information

KILROY IS HERE #2

Kilroy must risk exposing himself to the world when an infant is trapped in a burning building, and he's the only one who can save the child. By Joe Pruett and Ken Meyer Jr. $2.95

NEGATIVE BURN #24

This issue begins with a stunning cover by Michael Wm. Kaluta! Featured stories include Sandy by Hellblazer writer Paul Jenkins and Avido Khahaifa; and a new Kilroy Is Here story by Joe Pruett and Kevin Landwehr. $2.95

NOWHERESVILLE #1

The scene is cool but the passions are white-hot in this explosive tale of murder, obsession and revenge set in the turbulent world of the Beatniks. Don't be square, dad, dig Nowheresville! From the writer/artist team of Mark Ricketts, Rick Conrad and Alain Sherter. $2.95

RETURN OF HAPPY THE CLOWN #2

Enter the Ninja...and all hell breaks loose. Gina, Happy's girlfriend, is captured by agents of the CID and turned over to the demonic ninja hit squad known as "the Oni" to be used as bait for Happy. By Gary Francis and Troy Boyle. $2.95

OZ #9

The Oz Freedom Fighters are attacked by giant spiders in the passages below the Emerald City. Meanwhile, Peter, trapped in the Nome Kings dungeon, meets the true ruler of the Emerald City, Ozma the Queen! Written by Ralph Griffith and Stuart Kerr with art by Bill Bryan. $2.95

OZ Graphic Novel #1

Collecting the first five issues. This trade covers the arrival of Kevin, Peter and Mary to the land of OZ, through the dispelling of the magic enthralling Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion, and the preparation for the battle against the Nome King. By Griffith, Kerr and Bryan. 176 pages. $14.95

SLAUGHTERHOUSE #2

It is the Slaughterhouse and its walls are built of bodies that decompose...dozens of times, where a monstrosity known as Mosaic stalks the countryside seeking live flesh to adorn its decaying body. By Brent Truax (Cortez) and Kevin Thomas with inks by Avido Khahaifa (Black Mist). $2.95

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It's Savage Henriette?! The Bulldaggers are having a hard time accepting Henry as a girl. Written and illustrated by Matt Howarth. $2.95

Okay, since I went off that tangent last issue with the old letters, let's play catch-up this issue. That way the letters page should start running about 4 months after the issue in question (unless I decide to do another "catch-up" and get even closer in the near future. I guess the amount of letters I receive will help to dictate that). Now on with the show.

Greg Connell
237 Van Antwerp
Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Mr. Pruett,

Last week I picked up my first issue of NEGATIVE BURN. I found it refreshing to see such a volume of work in publication. Congratulations on your efforts.

I am looking forward to reading issue twenty. Thanks for your time and your quality work.

You're welcome, Greg.

Ellen Lynch
The Annex
314 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

Hi Joe Pruett,

Believe it or not, I've finally gotten around to reading some of your KILROY stories and a couple of NEGATIVE BURN books (specifically the trade). And in a brave new world where Marvel is about to march right on over us retailers, flattening us like bugs, the alternative press will be there to remind us what comics can be, what comics should be. Thank you, you help to keep me sane and interested.

I will always support comics like yours in my store. We may not get rich off of their sales, you and I, but many people will hear the word as I attempt to kick them in the butt to get them to try 'em. Their soul will get fed (oh brother!), and they will not lose faith in the medium we all love. I can only hope!

Gee, I wish every store was as enthusiastic as yours, Ellen! Thanks for the support that you're showing. It really means a lot to be able to hear it, especially from a retailer. It gives me renewed hope that this strange, new market will continue to allow visions like NEGATIVE BURN and KILROY to not only survive, but, dare I say it, thrive. Only time will tell.

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

What an issue NEGATIVE BURN #18 was! I think I'm not exaggerating when I say that this very issue undoubtedly was one of the very best in the existence of this series, being extremely interesting both because of the almost perfect mixture of different kinds of stories, which all tickled my fancy.

First, it was great to see THE APPARITION returning to these very pages again, even though the artwork wasn't fully painted as last time. The art, in fact, used for this installment, was at least as striking and suited for the story, perfectly capturing the mood of it and showing that even with only black and white one can create incredible effects. As for the story itself, I found it to be quite ironic to see the Apparition appear to make the life of a young woman a little more bearable by making her see there's life in everything around us and that even sorrow can transform in something beautiful, only to leave a rose whose thorns eventually cut Noelle in the fingers. The rose, I feel, still is the perfect equivalent of how life works. It's beautiful when you look at it, but be careful when you want to take it in your hands; you might cut yourself badly. Great work from James Pruett and both artists!

The piece of prose called "Seasons Change", featuring KILROY, also deserved my highest possible praise, not only because I've like the Kilroy character since I first saw him appear in these pages, but mainly because while reading this story, I was so awe-struck with its beauty, it even brought about a tear from my eye as it came to a close. I myself have never been in a position like the one of the little Christopher, but the story made me feel like I could relate to the little fella as if it was me standing there, sad and miserable. Words cannot express how good this short story made me feel, and I hope a short 'thank you' will suffice. Wonderful job on this one.

And finally, LOST LAUGHTER, the biggest revelation to me since STRANGERS IN PARADISE, came to an end. Although I had been ignoring the installments of this saga for the first three issues in which they appeared, I'm glad I can now say I've truly enjoyed this saga nevertheless. Better late than never, I guess, and I hope to see the talents of Jeff Nicholson return to these pages in the foreseeable future.

Thanks again for such a wonderfully beautiful issue, guys. This is a grade A issue, if I ever saw one!

Letters

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

NEGATIVE BURN #19 was an interesting issue, being a nice and solid combination of some varied story genres and diverse artists and writers, ranging from the well-known talents of Ted Slampyak, Alan Moore and Ken Meyer Jr. to the relatively unknown Bill Yukich and Laurence Campbell. Somehow, in the past two years or so of this series' existence, you've always carefully maintained such an enjoyable and entertaining mixture, and it's good to see this book is beginning to get more well-known and popular amongst a larger group of comic readers.

In fact, I think much of the Caliber line deserves equal attention. More and more, these days, I find myself enjoying some of the series being put out by Caliber to be of very consistent quality, contrary to some other relatively small publishers. By steering away form the mainstream super hero genre, most series have a very realistic yet slightly supernatural approach (APPARITION, KILROY IS HERE, BLACK MIST), while others even take it in the exact opposite direction, making realism the main catalyst (DOMINIQUE being an absolutely fabulous example). And, of course, a book such as EXIT fits right into what Caliber is publishing these days!

So allow me to extend my thanks to all creators and editors involved for so courageously offering a high-quality alternative for the still enjoyable super hero genre, giving the readers the chance to read about a wider variety of subjects, showing them there's more than just fancy heroes in colorful suits bashing each other silly. Again, it's very much appreciated.

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

NEGATIVE BURN #20 provided me with some very interesting stories once again, showing a great variety in subject and genre, thus making for almost optimum enjoyment.

For starters, it's funny to see how Brian Bolland's installments of MR. MAMOULIAN can entertain me in one issue and fails to do anything to me—or even bore me—in the next. This issue's installment, though, was one of the more enjoyable, I'm glad to inform you. Little experimental stuff with text balloons, daring lay-out with basically a static picture every time except for the last two panels, and quite a fun read to boot. Undoubtedly a good job this time around.

Furthermore, it was extremely satisfactory to see Greg DiGenti appear in these pages once more. I enjoy his compelling style of artwork, and the way it meshes with his stories is almost incomprehensible for mere mortal letterhacks such as I. DAS CHICKEN turned out to be no exception to that statement, making me laugh out at more than several instances. Greg allegedly (heh!) is one of the finest creators of surreal and extremely funny tales like this one, and I really hope to see more of him, here or perhaps some place else.

HOMONYM was a — well, it was a blast (couldn't resist that one)!

And finally, I found Kevin Thomas's THE BRINK to be a very intense and fascinating tale. Not only did his artwork strike me as very intriguing, showing a great variety of styles and lay-outs, I also feel the story was incredibly well written, both powerful and yet modest. Again, this is fascinating material.

In the meantime, hope to catch you again in the pages of the eagerly anticipated KILROY series!

Brian Bolland's MR. MAMOULIAN definitely reads much better when you have the advantage to sit down and read them all in one sitting. Perhaps we'll have a collected version of MR. MAMOULIAN available someday.

Glad you like Greg DiGenti's work, Olav. I promise that you'll be see a lot more of his work in these pages.

Jeff Bland
via Internet

Hello there! Just wanted to fire off a few electrons and let you know how much I like NEGATIVE BURN. My favorites from the last few issues are(drum roll)....SUZI ROMAINE, ANGELUS (Wonderful cover for #19!), THE MERCY MAN (one of those stories that makes me think "Gee, I wish I'd thought of that!"), THE APPARITION: SALT OF MY TEARS, and KNIGHTS OF THE SKULL. As for (semi) regular features, CLASSICS DESECRATED is always worth reading twice!

With regards to the NEGATIVE BURN \ KILROY TOUR, there is a comic shop here in town that I might be able to convince to be a stop on your tour. If you would Email the specifics to me, I will pass it along to the owner (It may be the only way I get to see you!).

Thanks for listening.

Hello there to you too, Jeff! Thanks for your comments, especially on Jim Frier's THE MERCY MAN, as that was his first published comic work. Hope you enjoyed Jim's story in last issue with Phillip Hester, FOACHER. I think Jim's a talent to watch out for in the future. Look for a full-length comic coming from him probably around the end of the year.

Also, have the comic shop get in touch with me and we'll go from there. I love to travel, so...

Jonathan Van Schoick
135 Nancy Lane
Trenton, NJ 08638

Dear Joe,

NEGATIVE BURN #20 is the first issue of the series that I have picked up, and I felt obliged to comment on the issue. Let's go on a story-by-story basis.

PORTRAIT OF A GIRL WITH AN UNPRONOUNCEABLE NAME was a wonderful story! It's the kind of short story that just captures your imagination, without a flashy gimmick. But for some reason, I really enjoyed it. If I figure out actually why I enjoyed it so much, I'll write back.

MR. MAMOULIAN was good, also. It was the first thing I noticed after paging through the comic. Wish it was longer than a page, though.

KNIGHTS OF THE SKULL was, at first glance, a NAM story, which I didn't particularly want to read. This was the last story I read, and in retrospect, the second most enjoyable. The last panel was fantastic, and I didn't see it coming at all (maybe I'm just naive ...)

IN THE PARK should be in the garbage. I didn't like this page filler at all. Wasted space, put something better here next time. Was this supposed to make me philosophical about life and the big-bang (theory)? It didn't.

DAS CHICKEN! YES! This was great! Hilarious story! I had previously lost my faith in good pure-comedy comics, this restored it.

HOMONYM, a nice way to illustrate the generation gap.

THE BRINK was interesting, and thought provoking, which I guess is what any good story should do. Sad reflection of the domestic violence in this country. There should be more comics dealing with the issue.

THE RECORD PLAYER was fantastic!! The art was great, and it was the perfect weird quirky story that I've always enjoyed. It reminded me of something from the Twilight Zone. Please, I beg you, bring Libby Singleton and Joe Staton BACK! I've got to see more from these two!!

Well, I hope I've enlightened you with my comments, since your comic has brought me some thought-provoking reading. Until next issue ...

Glad to see we can still get new readers after we've reached the twentieth issue. That's encouraging. It seems that you liked everything in this issue except for IN THE PARK. That's not a bad percentage. The biggest complaint about an anthology is that some things you like and some things you don't. If I can get a reader to like all but two pages in an issue then I feel like I've done a good job.

Libby Singleton and Joe Staton also did a short story that appeared in DOMINIQUE: PROTECT AND SERVE (Jan. 1995 from Caliber Comics). Go out and pick it up.

Thanks for writing.

AWARDS! AWARDS! AWARDS!

It seems that NEGATIVE BURN keeps getting recognized when it comes around for awards time. Here's the new list that I've become aware of:

THE 1995 DON THOMPSON AWARDS (presented by the Comics and Animation Forum on CompuServe)
Finalist in the category for Most Improved Comic, Best Anthology, and Best Editor (Joe Pruett).

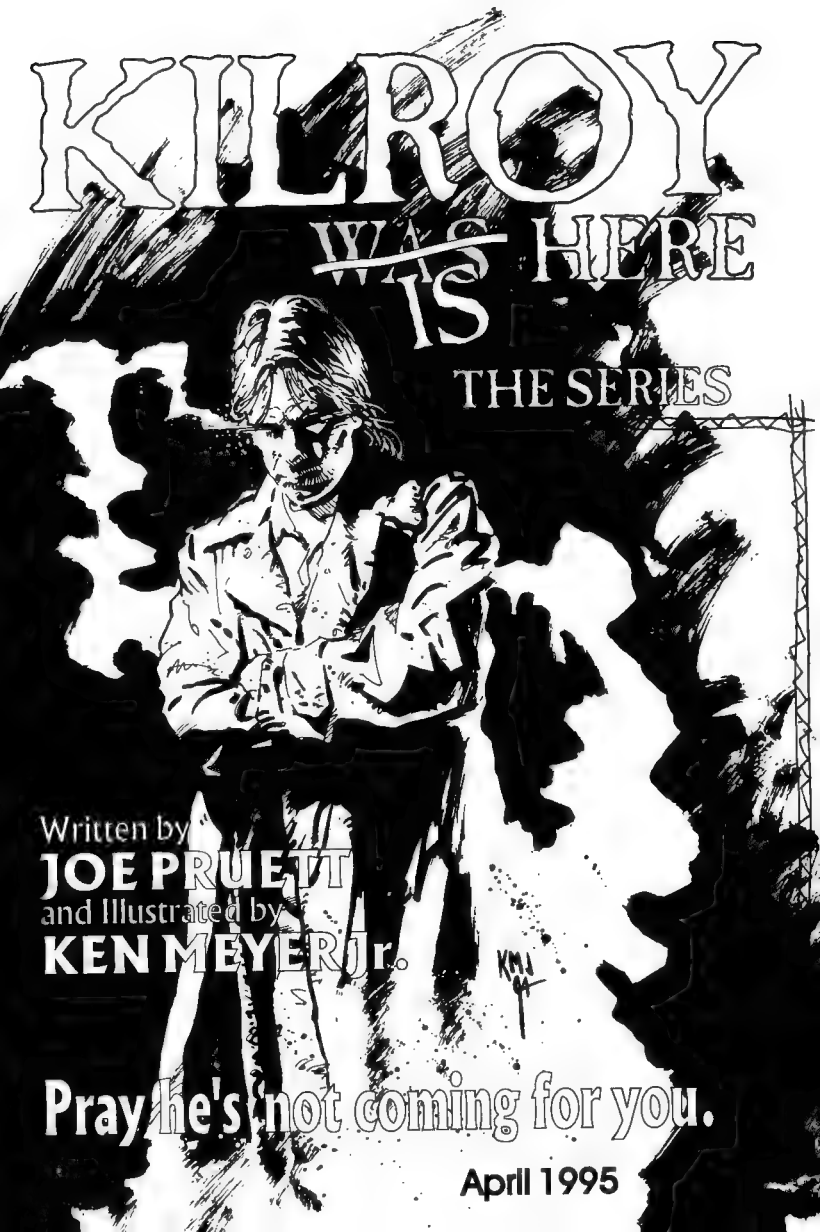
THE 1995 EISNER AWARDS
Finalist in the category of Best Short Story for "We Can Get Them For You Wholesale", based on an original story by Neil Gaiman, adaptation by Joe Pruett and Ken Meyer Jr. (originally appeared in NEGATIVE BURN #11).

Scott Beattie
2 Kent Court
Albany Creek
Queensland 4035
Australia

Dear Joe and the gang,

Congratulations on the success of NEGATIVE BURN. Call me cynical but I never thought you'd make it past #2 or 3. Not that there is anything wrong with your product (quite the opposite), but it is rare that quality sells. Hey, I know you guys don't drive limos yet, but maybe if you did some stories with alien monsters and guns and objectified women with enormous breasts...No—even better—what about a superhero! You can call him Burn-Man" and make him a world-weary psychopathic vigilante with a blow-torch and a fondness for small children and animals!!! Erhum...Anyway, keep up the great work. I love black and white. I love short stories. I love human, real stories (tip o' the hat to Paul Pope, by the way!)

I don't know where you get your information, Scott, but you've just described the next issue of NEGATIVE BURN...no, wait, I mean, the next issue of BURN MAN". Expect a call from our lawyers. Also, thanks for the way cool copy of PENUMBRA. Nice job.


KILROY
WAS IS HERE
THE SERIES
Written by
JOE PRUETT
and Illustrated by
KEN MEYER Jr.
KMJ
Pray he's not coming for you.
April 1995

bebop

poetry

drugs

angst

booze

chicks

bondage

murder

a one-way trip to

NOWHERESVILLE

summer 1995

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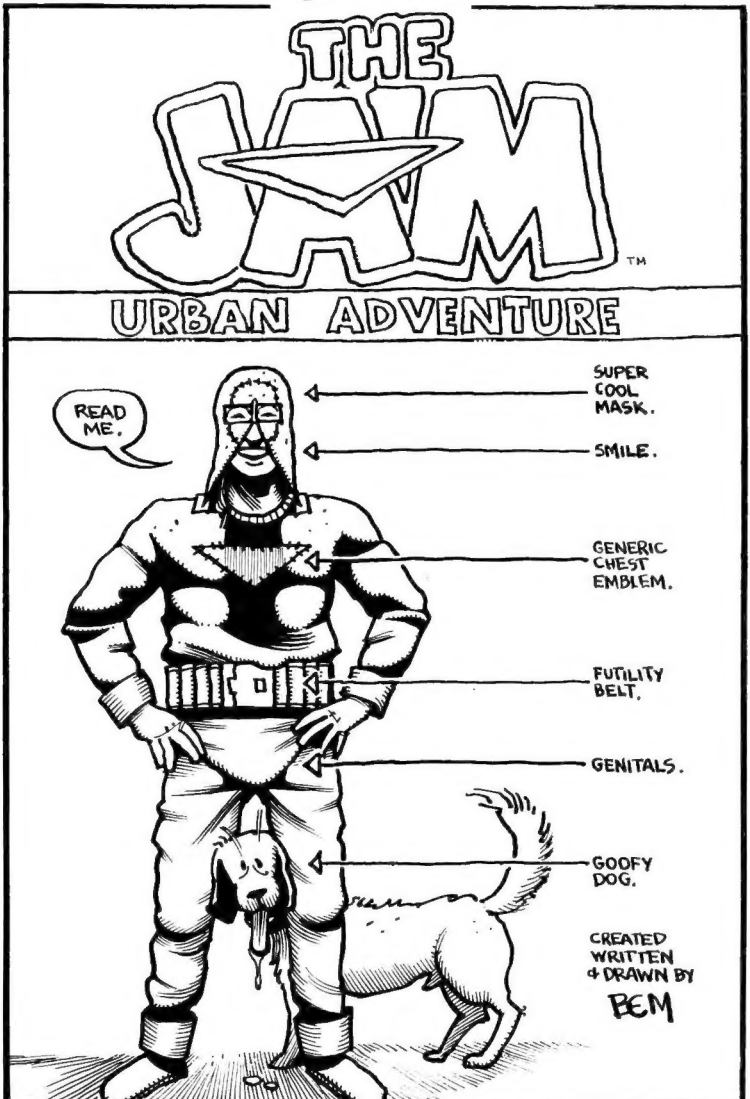

Coming in August 1995

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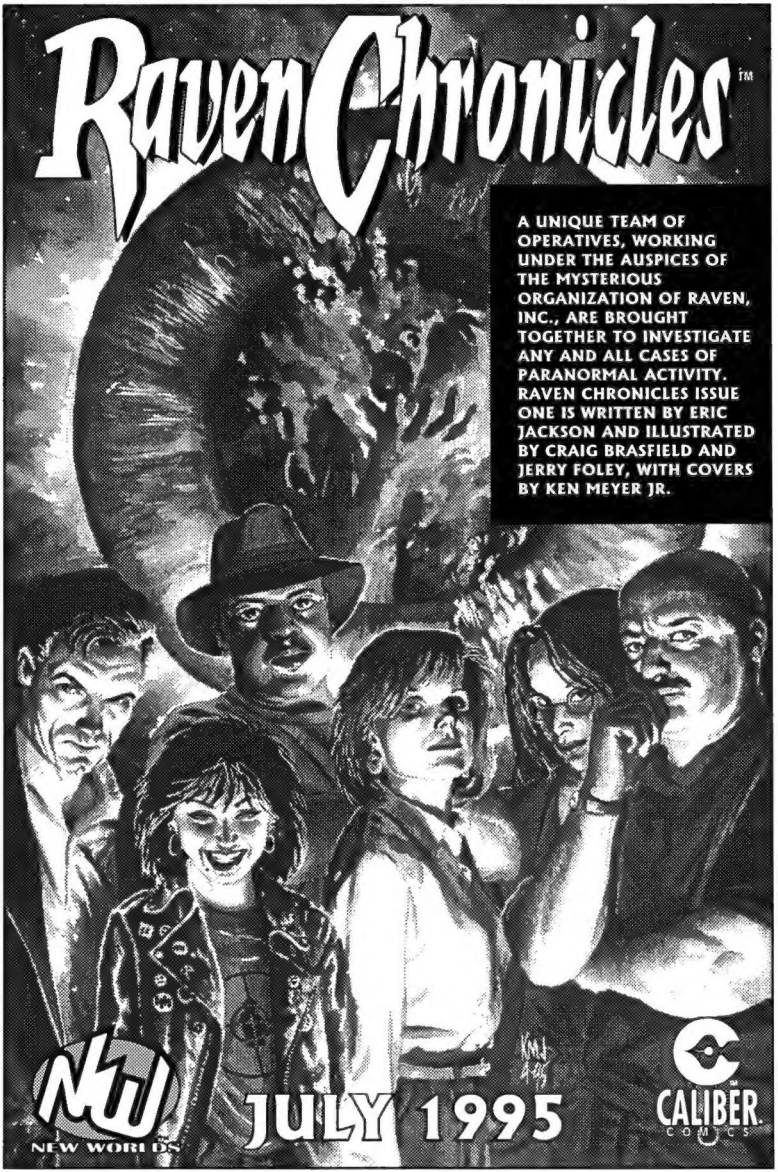
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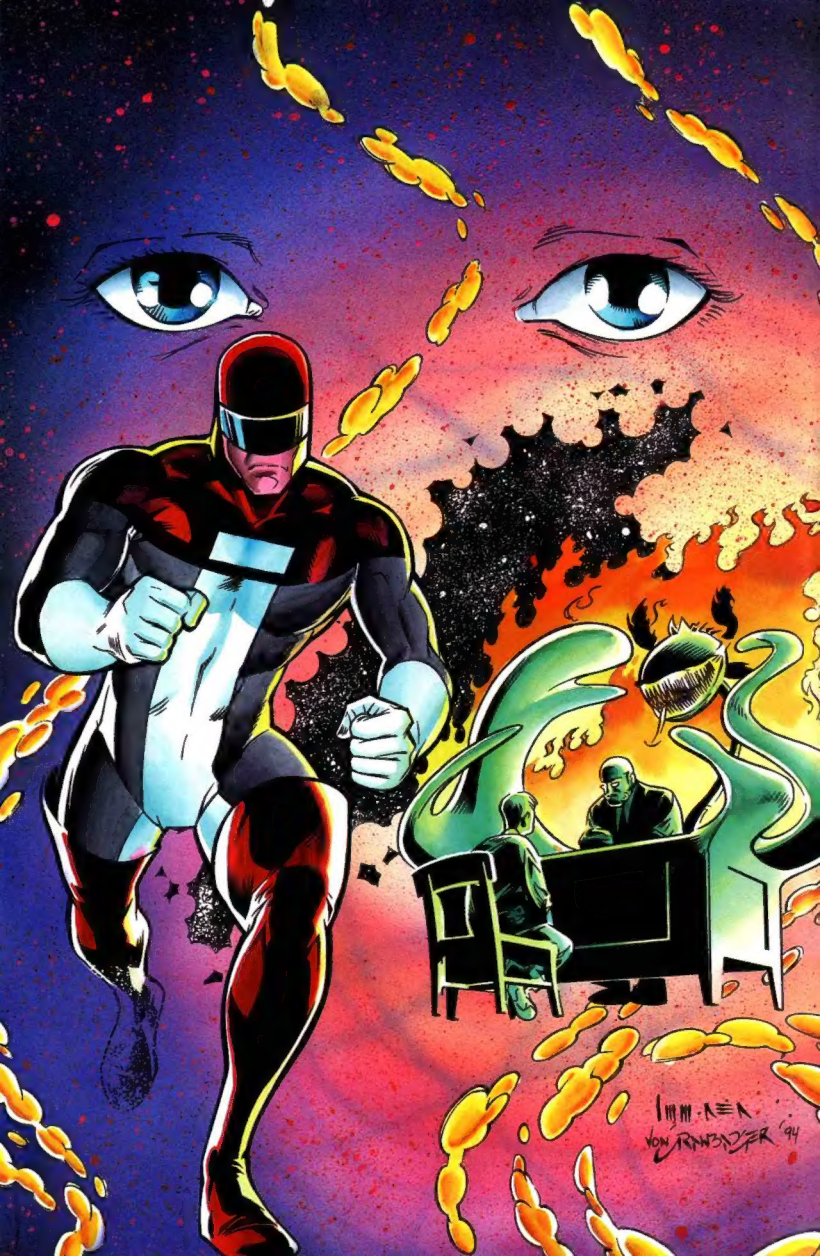
JULY 1995
CALIBER COMICS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VON RANDOFER '94